IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method of filling an endodontically prepared root canal of a tooth comprising:

applying filler material to the external surface of a distal portion of an elongated structural shaft, the shaft having sufficient rigidity to serve as a vehicle for carrying said filler material into lowermost portions of a root canal;

inserting said proximal portion of said shaft having said filler material thereon into the root canal; and

applying ~~sound~~ energy to said shaft at a frequency sufficiently high to cause ~~said shaft to vibrate at a rate that thereby~~ the surface tension of said filler material ~~is~~ to substantially decreased to cause said filler material and said shaft distal portion to fill the root canal or optionally to allow ~~allowing~~ said shaft to be removed leaving said filler material alone in the root canal.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 26 including:

affixing a signal generating temperature sensor to said shaft and using a signal generated by said temperature sensor to control said application of ~~sound~~ energy to said shaft.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein said shaft is of metal.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein said shaft is of plastic or fiberglass.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 26 wherein said step of applying ~~sound~~ energy to said shaft is accomplished by employing piezoelectric energy.

32. (Currently Amended) An obturator system for filling an endodontically prepared tooth root canal comprising:

an elongated shaft having a proximal portion and a smooth distal portion;

filler material applied onto said shaft distal portion, said shaft having sufficient rigidity to serve as a vehicle for carrying said filler material thereon into the lowermost portions of a tooth root canal; and

a source of ~~sound~~ energy that is applied to said shaft at a frequency sufficiently high to cause said shaft to vibrate at a rate that thereby the surface tension of said filler material is substantially decreased to cause said filler material and said shaft distal portion to fill the root canal or optionally to allow ~~allowing~~ said shaft to be removed leaving said filler material in the root canal.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) An obturator system according to Claim 32 wherein said source of ~~sound~~ energy employs piezoelectric energy.

35. (Currently Amended) An obturator system according to Claim 32 wherein said source of ~~sound~~ energy is a laser.

36. (Currently Amended) An obturator system according to Claim 32 wherein said source of energy is a coil ~~is~~ telescopically removable from said shaft proximal portion.

37. (Previously Presented) An obturator system according to Claim 32 including a signal generating temperature sensor affixed to said shaft.

38. (Currently Amended) An obturator system according to Claim 37 including:

circuitry including said temperature sensor by which said source of ~~sound~~ energy is controlled in response to the temperature of said shaft.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of filling an endodontically prepared root canal of a tooth comprising:

applying filler material to the external surface of a distal portion of an elongated structural shaft having sufficient rigidity to serve as a vehicle for carrying said filler material into lowermost portions of a root canal;

inserting said proximal portion of said shaft having said filler material thereon into the root canal;

applying energy to shaft of sufficient intensity to decrease the surface tension of said filler material to cause said filler material and said shaft distal portion to fill the root canal or optionally permit; ~~and~~ removing said shaft leaving said filler material in the root canal.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of filling an endodontically prepared root canal according to Claim 39 wherein the step of applying energy to said shaft is accomplished by the application of sonic energy.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of filling an endodontically prepared root canal according to Claim 39 wherein the step of applying energy to said shaft is accomplished by the application of piezoelectric energy.